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AN ADDRESS

DELIVERED BEFORE THE

CONFEDERATE SURVIVORS' ASSOCIATION,

IN

Augusta, Georgia,

ON THE OCCASION OF ITS ELEVENTH ANNUAL REUNION

ON

MEMORIAL DAY, APRIL 26, 1889.

BY

COL: CHARLES C. JONES, Jr., LL.D.,

PRESIDENT OF THE ASSOCIATION.

Printed by Order of the Association.

AUGUSTA, GA.

CHRONICLE PUBLISHING COMPANY.



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THE ADDRESS.

Comrades:

Since our last annual convocation five links have fallen from that privileged chain which unites us in the bonds of fraternal companionship. Private THOS. F. FLEMING, of the Medical Department, died on the 5th of May, 1888. Four days afterwards our colors appeared at half-mast in sorrowful token of the departure of Captain A. G. LATASTE, of Company K, 1st Regiment, Florida Cavalry; and, on the 11th of the following June we escorted to the tomb Captain J. PINCKNEY THOMAS, aid-de-camp on the staff of Major General P. M. B. Young. On the 27th of July Captain WILLIAM M. D'ANTIGNAC, of Company K, 10th Regiment, Georgia Infantry, responded to the final summons, and only two days ago we were advised of the death of Private H. D. STANLEY, of Company A, 28th Regiment, North Carolina Infantry.

Thus, on the return of this Memorial Day, are we again reminded that our circle, narrowing here, is expanding in the green fields beyond, where the rude alarms of war are never heard, and where there is rest eternal.

According to the official returns, the aggregate wealth of Georgia, in 1860, was estimated at \$672,322,777. Of this sum nearly one half was represented by negro slaves numbering 450,033 and valued at \$302,694,855. During the four preceding years the taxable property of this commonwealth had increased almost one hundred and seventy seven millions of dollars. The signs of universal prosperity were manifest, and everything betokened an era of contentment, of development, and of expanding good fortune.

While there were comparatively few who, in either town or country, could lay claim to very large estates, the planters and merchants of Georgia were in comfortable circumstances. Business operations were conducted upon a quiet, honest, and legitimate basis. Of bucket shops there were none; and gambling in cotton, stocks, grain, and other commodities was wholly unknown. Railroads were built by honest subscriptions and, when completed, were hampered by no mortgages. Commercial transactions were entered upon and consummated *bona fide*, and did not represent operations upon paper or speculations upon margins. Men knew and trusted one another, and did not often have cause to repent of the confidence reposed. Sharp-traders were not held in good repute, and questionable methods were mercilessly condemned. Of manufacturing establishments there were few. Agriculture claimed and received the allegiance of the masses. The planters, as a class, were competent, industrious, observant of their obligations, humane in the treatment of their slaves, given to hospitality, fond of manly exercise, independent in thought and act, and solicitous for the moral and intellectual education of their children. A civilization, patriarchal in its characteristics, combined with a veneration for the

traditions of the fathers and a love of home, gave birth to patriotic impulses and encouraged a high standard of individual honor, integrity, and manhood. From boyhood men were accustomed to the saddle, and familiar with the use of firearms. The martial spirit was apparent in volunteer military organizations; and, at stated intervals, contests involving rare proficiency in horsemanship, and in handling the sabre, the pistol, the musket, and the field-piece, attracted the public gaze and won the approving smiles of woman. Leisure hours were spent in hunting and fishing and in social intercourse. Of litigation there was little. Misunderstandings, when they occurred, were usually accommodated by honorable arbitration. Personal responsibility, freely admitted, engendered mutual respect, and fostered a commendable exhibition of individual manliness. Communities were well ordered and prosperous. The homes of the inhabitants were peaceful and happy.

Beyond controversy Georgia was then the Empire State of the South. At the inception of the Confederate Revolution she occupied a commanding position in the esteem of sister States with similar institutions, like hopes, and a common destiny. It may be safely affirmed that in political leadership, in intellectual capabilities, in material resources, by virtue of her situation, and in moral and physical power, this commonwealth was the pivotal state in the Southern Confederation. It was only when her borders were actually invaded, and when her integrity was seriously impaired by the devastating columns led by General Sherman, that the weakness of the Confederacy was fairly demonstrated, and the disastrous termination of the conflict was absolutely foreshadowed.

Memorable in the political annals of this Commonwealth were the Provincial Congress which assembled in Savannah in July, 1775, and the Convention of the people held in Milledgeville and Savannah early in 1861. The former placed the Province in active sympathy and confederated alliance with the other twelve American Colonies, practically annulled within her limits the operation of the objectionable acts of Parliament, questioned the supremacy of the Crown, and inaugurated measures calculated to accomplish the independence of the plantation and its erection into the dignity of a State. The latter declared that the union "subsisting between the State of Georgia and other States under the name of the United States of America" was "dissolved," and that the commonwealth of Georgia was in the "full possession and exercise of all those rights of sovereignty which belong and appertain to a free and independent state." Both conventions were called and conducted their sessions during seasons of the most intense public excitement. Among the members in attendance were the most prominent Georgians of the respective periods.

Over the first secession convention presided that sterling patriot Archibald Bullock, and in its deliberations participated such persons—famous in their day and generation—as Noble Wymerley Jones, Joseph Habersham, Jonathan Bryan, Samuel Elbert, John Houstoun, Oliver Bowen, Edward Telfair, William Ewen, John Martin, Joseph Clay, Seth John Cuthbert, John Stirk, John Adam Treutlen, George Walton, Lachlan McIntosh, James Screven, Nathan Brownson, and William Baker.

Ex-Governor George W. Crawford was chosen president of the second secession convention. Very many of the ablest men in Georgia appeared as delegates.

Among them will be remembered Eugenius A. Nisbet, Alfred H. Colquitt, A. H. Kenan, D. J. Bailey, W. T. Wofford, F. S. Bartow, T. R. R. Cobb, Richard H. Clark, Linton Stephens, Herschel V. Johnson, W. B. Fleming, Hiram Warner, Augustus Reese, Henry L. Benning, Alexander H. Stephens, A. H. Hansell, B. H. Hill, Robert Toombs, and others scarcely less distinguished. That the dignity of the convention might, if possible, be enhanced, the courtesy of seats upon the floor was extended to his excellency Governor Joseph E. Brown, to the Hon. Howell Cobb, to the Justices of the Supreme Court, and to the Judges of the Superior Courts of the State.

The printed Journal of this Convention fills an octavo volume of more than four hundred pages, and its lightest inspection will convince the most sceptical of the magnitude and the gravity of the labors wrought by the members who composed it. Characteristic of all the deliberations of this august body are an exalted appreciation of the situation, a thorough conception of the political peril, an intelligent comprehension of the issues involved, and an earnest endeavor to anticipate every need and provide for all governmental exigencies which might arise in the changed condition of affairs.

The ordinance of secession was framed and introduced by the Hon. Eugenius A. Nisbet, an ex-Judge of the Supreme Court of Georgia, at one time a member of Congress, a gentleman of education, culture, and refinement, and a citizen honored for his purity of character, public spirit, and christian virtues. After a protracted debate remarkable for its solemnity and power, the ordinance was passed by the convention by a vote of two hundred and eight yeas to eighty nine nays. Among those voting in the negative were

Herschel V. Johnson, Alex. H. and Linton Stephens. Hiram Warner and W. T. Wofford. While maintaining the right of a State for substantial cause to secede from the Union, many of the minority contended that a fit occasion had not arisen for the exercise of that right. Before withdrawing from the Confederation, it was their belief that Georgia should wait for some overt act committed by the Lincoln administration. When, however, the ordinance was passed by the convention, recognizing the fact that their supreme allegiance was due to Georgia, those voting in the negative waived their objections and subsequently wavered not in their devotion to State and Confederacy. As a matter of history it will be remembered that when, under resolution of the convention, this ordinance of secession was engrossed and presented for signature, it was signed by every member. Six of them, however, while protesting against the action of the majority "in adopting an ordinance for the immediate and separate secession" of the State, and expressing a preference that "the policy of co-operation with sister Southern States" should have been adopted, nevertheless yielded to the will of the majority and pledged their "lives, fortunes and sacred honor" to the defense of Georgia "against hostile invasion from any source." This action on the part of the convention exerted a powerful influence in consolidating the general sentiment of the State, and encouraged other Southern commonwealths, which had not then seceded, to the prompt adoption of a similar course. The intelligence of the passage of this ordinance of secession was received by Georgia communities with the wildest enthusiasm, with bon-fires and illuminations, with beat of drum, with the thunder of cannon, and with consentient acclaim.

Before the convention had concluded its labors, Georgia State forces, under the orders of Governor Brown, had taken possession of the United States forts Pulaski and Jackson on the Savannah river, and of the United States Arsenal at Augusta. With a vigor which challenges every admiration the State authorities were preparing to meet the gathering storm, the earliest thunders of which were soon to be heard in Charleston harbor. Georgia was rapidly becoming a vast recruiting camp: and the patriotic military spirit evinced by her citizens transcended all expectation. The compulsive course of this popular uprising knew no retiring ebb. Commissioners were accredited to such Southern and doubtful States as had not then seceded. Delegates were also chosen to attend the Congress which was to assemble at Montgomery, Alabama, on the 4th of February, 1861. They were empowered, upon free conference with delegates who might be present from other seceding States, to unite with them in forming and putting into immediate operation a temporary or provisional government for the common safety and defense of the commonwealths represented in that congress. It was suggested by the convention that such provisional government should not extend beyond a period of twelve months from the time it became operative, and that it should be modeled as nearly as practicable "on the basis and principles of the late government of the United States of America." Plenary powers were also confided to these commissioners, upon like consultation, to agree upon a plan for the permanent government of the confederated States.

The delegates chosen by the secession convention of Georgia to this memorable congress were: From the State at large, ROBERT TOOMBS and HOWELL COBB:

From the First Congressional District.....	FRANCIS S. BARTOW.
“ “ Second “ “	MARTIN J. CRAWFORD.
“ “ Third “ “	EUGENIUS A. NISBET.
“ “ Fourth “ “	BENJAMIN H. HILL.
“ “ Fifth “ “	AUGUSTUS R. WRIGHT.
“ “ Sixth “ “	THOMAS R. R. COBB.
“ “ Seventh “ “	AUGUSTUS H. KENAN.
“ “ Eighth “ “	ALEXANDER H. STEPHENS.

With a single exception all these distinguished Georgians are already numbered with the dead. In moulding the deliberations and shaping the legislation of this Provisional Congress no delegation was more influential than that from this commonwealth. The Hon. Howell Cobb was chosen president of the Congress, and the Hon. Robert Toombs was prominently mentioned in connection with the chief magistracy of the States confederated under the union then formed by the seceding commonwealths. He was largely instrumental in framing the Constitution of the Confederate States: and, upon the inauguration of Mr. Davis as President of the Southern Confederacy, accepted at his hands the portfolio of State. He was content, however, to discharge the duties of this office only during the formative period of the government. His restless, imperious spirit and active intellect could not long brook the tedium of bureau affairs or rest satisfied with the small engagements then incident to that position. In the following July he relinquished the portfolio of a department, the records of which, he facetiously remarked “he carried in his hat,” and accepted service in the field with the rank of Brigadier General. Than Mr. Toombs there was no one, either in Georgia or in the South, who exerted a more potent influence in precipitating the Confederate Revolution. Enjoying a present fame as a legislator, a statesman, a counsellor, an advocate, an orator, a Confederate chieftain, a defender of the South, and a lover of this

commonwealth towering among the highest and the brightest of the land, this illustrious Georgian is also remembered as a leader not always wise and conservative in his views—as a mighty tribune of the people, impatient of restraint, often insubordinate, and sometimes dethroning images where he erected none better in their places.

The Hon. Howell Cobb—of whom it has justly been said: he was loved by the lowly and honored by the great—subsequently entered the military service of the Confederacy and rose to the rank of a Major General.

Francis S. Bartow and Thomas R. R. Cobb gifted, eloquent, enthusiastic, and full of patriotic ardor, hastened to illustrate Georgia upon the earliest battle fields of the Revolution. They fell gallantly in the shock of arms—Brigadier Generals both—one at first Manassas, and the other at Fredericksburg, and upon their graves rests the fadeless wreath of honor. They freely gave their lives in supporting the rights and maintaining the principles for which they contended so ably in the Southern Congress.

Alexander H. Stephens was elected Vice-President of the Confederate States, and occupied that exalted position during the entire life of the government. Benjamin H. Hill became a Confederate Senator from Georgia. He was recognized as a confidential friend and adviser of President Davis, and was at all times regarded as one of the most influential supporters of his administration.

Augustus H. Kenan and Augustus R. Wright were elected members of the House of Representatives in the First Confederate Congress.

In that Congress—extending from February 22nd, 1862 to February 22nd, 1864—Georgia was represented in the Senate by Benjamin H. Hill and John W.

Lewis, and in the House of Representatives by Julian Hartridge, Charles J. Munnerlyn, Hines Holt, Augustus H. Kenan, David W. Lewis, William W. Clark, Robert P. Trippe, Lucius J. Gartrell, Hardy Strickland, and Augustus R. Wright. In the Second Congress—beginning on the 22nd of February 1864 and continuing until the close of the war—this commonwealth was represented in the Senate by Benjamin H. Hill and Herschel V. Johnson, and in the House by Julian Hartridge, William E. Smith, Mark H. Blandford, Clifford Anderson, John T. Shewmake, Joseph H. Echols, James M. Smith, H. P. Bell, George N. Lester, and Warren Akin.

Of the Lower House of the First Congress Emmet Dixon of Georgia was clerk, and Albert R. Lamar of this State was chosen clerk of the House of Representatives of the Second Congress. In the distribution of offices in the respective governmental departments Georgia freely participated.

We may not now enter upon a review of the legislative proceedings of these bodies, but we are justified in saying that upon all questions of moment—and they were of constant occurrence—the labors and utterances of the members from Georgia were emphatic and influential. In material wealth, in intellectual ability, in worthy representation, in loyalty to the rights of state and nation, in contribution of men and materials of war, in devotion to the general welfare, and in strenuous endeavor, this commonwealth was conspicuous in the Confederate sisterhood.

Over the political fortunes of Georgia during the continuance of the war the Hon. Joseph E. Brown presided as Governor; and, whatever differences of opinion may have existed between President Davis and himself with regard to the conduct of public affairs,

and the reserved rights of the States as affected by the powers of the general government, it may fairly be claimed for the chief magistrate of this commonwealth that no official could have been more earnest in the support of the Confederate cause, none more prompt in supplying every demand made by the Confederacy upon the commonwealth, none more solicitous for the welfare of the people entrusted to his guardian care during this epoch of privation, of perplexity, of peril, and of probation, none more active in the discharge of the duties devolved, none more eager for the success of Confederate arms. In all his efforts he bespoke and secured the cordial co-operation of the general assemblies convened *bello flagrante*.

For the manufacture of munitions of war and equipments of every needed sort, arsenals and posts—under the supervision of competent officers—were established and maintained at various points in Georgia, notably at Augusta, at Macon, at Columbus, and at Milledgeville. Of overshadowing importance and vast utility were the arsenal, foundry, and powder-works at Augusta, constructed and operated under the capable charge of our honored member—General George W. Rains—to whom as an able and a scientific soldier President Davis has paid high tribute—assisted by that accomplished military architect and civil engineer, C. Shaler Smith. From this source did the Confederacy draw its principal supply of powder, and a considerable portion of the war-material employed in the equipment of armies and in the conduct of battles. All honor to General Rains for the intelligent, patriotic, and invaluable service thus rendered. In your

names, my friends, and in grateful appreciation of his long, virtuous, patriotic, and useful life, I would here convey to him our cordial wish:

Serus in cœlum redeas.

Mindful of the important functions of these powder works, and anxious to wrest from impending destruction and to dedicate to memorial uses the Obelisk Chimney which constituted the most prominent feature among the various structures composing that memorable military group, this Association, in 1882, thoroughly repaired its castellated base, and inserted in the face looking toward the South a large tablet of Italian marble bearing in raised letters this inscription:

“This Obelisk-Chimney—sole remnant of the extensive Powder-Works here erected under the auspices of the Confederate Government—is, by the Confederate Survivors’ Association of Augusta, with the consent of the City Council, conserved in honor of a fallen Nation, and inscribed to the memory of those who died in the Southern armies during the war between the States.”

Thus renovated, thus individualized, and thus dedicated, this colossal cenotaph perpetuates in the present and will proclaim to the coming generations the heroic traditions of the days that are gone, and keep its sentinel watch over the graves alike of the Confederacy and of those who perished in its support.

During the Confederate Revolution the Supreme Court of Georgia consisted of Chief-Justice Joseph Henry Lumpkin, and Associate Justices Charles J. Jenkins, and Richard F. Lyon. It fell to the lot of this bench to decide some of the most important questions arising out of the war and the abnormal con-

dition of affairs thereby engendered. In confirmation of this assertion we need only refer to the exhaustive and admirable opinions handed down in the cases of *Jeffers vs Fair*, [33rd Georgia Reports page 347], and *Jones vs Warren*, [34th Georgia Reports page 28], in which the constitutionality of the Confederate conscript acts is affirmed, and the validity of the Enrolling Acts of the Confederate Congress is upheld. President Davis stated that he would gladly have offered Judge Jenkins a seat in his cabinet, but he realized the fact that he could not be spared from the bench of the Supreme Court of Georgia where his labors, in association with those of his brethren, were invaluable to the Confederacy at crucial epochs.

The circuit bench, as a rule, was equally earnest and conscientious in sustaining the constitutionality of the acts passed by the Confederate Congress. In this connection it will not be forgotten that there was no Supreme Court organized and holden under the sanction of the Confederate Government. The judicial duties appertaining to the Confederate District Court at Savannah were acceptably performed in turn by Judges Henry R. Jackson and Edward J. Harden.

To the military service of the Confederacy Georgia gave, as Lieutenant Generals, William J. Hardee, Joseph Wheeler, and John B. Gordon. To them should properly be added James Longstreet; for, although accredited to Alabama in the official assignment, his affiliation by descent and association were emphatically with this State.

Among those who attained unto the rank of Major General we enumerate, either as Georgians or as ac-

credited to this State, John S. Bowen, Howell Cobb, John B. Gordon, William J. Hardee, David R. Jones, Lafayette McLaws, David E. Twiggs, William H. T. Walker, Joseph Wheeler, A. R. Wright, and P. M. B. Young.

Turning to the list of those who were advanced to the grade of Brigadier General, we find the names of E. Porter Alexander, George T. Anderson, Robert H. Anderson, Francis S. Bartow, Henry L. Benning, William R. Boggs, William M. Browne, John S. Bowen, Goode Bryan, Howell Cobb, Thomas R. R. Cobb, Alfred H. Colquitt, Philip Cook, C. C. Crews, Alfred Cumming, James Deshler, George Doles, Dudley M. DuBose, Clement A. Evans, William M. Gardner, Lucius J. Gartrell, Victor I. B. Girardey, John B. Gordon, William J. Hardee, George P. Harrison, Jr., R. J. Henderson, Alfred Iverson, Jr., Henry R. Jackson, John K. Jackson, David R. Jones, William H. King, Alexander R. Lawton, James Longstreet, Lafayette McLaws, Hugh W. Mercer, Paul J. Semmes, James P. Simms, William D. Smith, G. Moxley Sorrel, Isaac M. St. John, Marcellus A. Stovall, Edward L. Thomas, Robert Toombs, E. D. Tracy, David E. Twiggs, William H. T. Walker, Henry C. Wayne, Joseph Wheeler, Edward Willis, Claudius C. Wilson, W. T. Wofford, A. R. Wright, G. J. Wright, and P. M. B. Young.

Two of them—Generals Stovall and Evans—are esteemed and honored officers of this Association. The fame of one is indissolubly associated with the valorous achievements of the Army of the West, while the reputation of the other was bravely won amid the perils and the triumphs of the Army of Northern Virginia. Cordially do we renew our salutations on this Memorial Day, assuring them of our

profound respect and sincere friendship, and earnestly expressing the hope that the day may be far distant when they shall be called upon to cross the dark stream and rest with Johnston and Polk, with Lee and Jackson, beneath the evergreen trees which beatify the further shore.

To these general officers who were regularly commissioned in the armies of the Confederacy, we add the following—who, at some time, held commissions from Georgia, and were in command of the State forces: Major Generals Henry R. Jackson and Gustavus W. Smith, and Brigadier Generals C. D. Anderson, F. W. Capers, R. W. Carswell, Geo. P. Harrison, Sr., Henry K. McCay, P. J. Phillips, William Phillips, W. H. T. Walker, and Henry C. Wayne.

Pretermittin^g all mention of those who were wounded in the field, we record the names of the following who fell in battle: Major General William Henry T. Walker, killed near Atlanta, Georgia, on the 22nd of July 1864,—Brigadier General Francis S. Bartow, killed at First Manassas,—Brigadier General Thomas R. R. Cobb, killed at Fredericksburg,—Brigadier James Deshler, killed at Chickamauga—Brigadier General George Doles, killed at Bethesda church,—Brigadier General Victor I. B. Girardey, killed on the lines in front of Petersburg,—Brigadier General Paul J. Semmes, mortally wounded at Gettysburg,—Brigadier General E. D. Tracy, killed near Port Gibson,—and Brigadier General Edward Willis, killed at Bethesda church, in Virginia.

It will be remembered that Brigadier General Alexander R. Lawton was detailed from the line and assigned to duty as Quarter-Master General on the 17th of February 1864; and that, towards the close of

the war, Brigadier General I. M. St. John was entrusted with the position of Commissary General.

We thus perceive that the State of Georgia furnished the Vice-President of the Confederacy, a Secretary of State, a Quarter-Master General, a Commissary General, four of the twenty-one Lieutenant Generals, eleven of the one hundred and two Major Generals, and of the four hundred and seventy-five who attained unto or rose above the grade of Brigadier General, fifty-four.

To the naval service of the Confederate States Georgia contributed her full quota. The present Adjutant General of this State—John McIntosh Kell—is a worthy type of what this commonwealth did in that behalf; and, in the person of Commodore Josiah Tattall, we proudly point to an officer whose gallantry, seamanship, and exalted characteristics commanded universal admiration. In the language of Captain Whittle, he only lacked what Decatur called *opportunity* to have inscribed his name high among the great naval men of the world. His perception was like the lightning's flash. The execution followed and with a force sufficient to overcome the resistance to be encountered. With a mind capable of conceiving the boldest designs and a courage which never faltered in their performance, it may be truly said of this Bayard of the seas he was *sans peur et sans reproche*.

So much, my friends, for the general officers who illustrated the patriotism and the valor of Georgia upon the battle fields of the Confederate revolution. Simply to name them is to point to fields of glory broader than the confines once claimed by the Southern States, and to revive the recollection of grand endeavors and gallant enterprises as illustrious as the annals of any people and age may boast. Among them all there

was none, so far as I know, who proved recreant to the trust reposed, who faltered in the hour of peril, who failed in the exhibition of an unshaken love of country, or who neglected to manifest those traits which should characterize a military leader contending in a defensive war for the conservation of all the heart holds most dear. And some among them there were, who with superior capabilities and larger opportunities wrought memorable deeds, and achieved for themselves and nation a reputation which the bravest and the knightliest may envy.

And what shall we say of the field-officers, the staff, the non-commissioned officers and privates of the grand army which Georgia sent forth during more than four long and bloody years to do battle for the right? Their name is legion, and fearlessly did they bear themselves from the low-lying shores of the Gulf of Mexico to the furthest verge of the crimson tide breasted by the veterans of the army of Northern Virginia,—from the Atlantic slope to the uttermost limits beyond the Mississippi claimed by the Confederacy. They followed the Red Cross wherever it pointed, and the reputation of Georgia troops is intimately and honorably associated with the memorable battles fought for the independence of the South. Give me a Georgia Brigade and I can carry those heights. Such was the compliment paid at the battle of Chancellorsville by an officer who appreciated the hazard of the endeavor and understood the mettle of the men requisite for its consummation. Have you ever comprehended, my friends, how thoroughly the manhood of this commonwealth was enlisted in the military service of the Confederacy? Let me refresh your recollection by this memorandum, based upon the most authentic data, of the various organizations contributed by Georgia to the armies of

the Southern Confederation. Of Infantry there were sixty-nine Regiments, twelve Battalions, and five Legions; of Cavalry twelve Regiments, and twelve Battalions; and of Artillery nine Battalions. Besides these there were ninety-four independent companies of all arms of the service. Add to these, five Regiments and six Battalions of Infantry—constituting the Georgia Reserves—and a multitude by no means insignificant of old men and boys brought into the field when Georgia was invaded, and you will agree with me when I say that the entire manhood and boyhood too of this commonwealth were subsidized in the support of the Confederacy. Subsidized, was that the word? Nay rather, patriotically enlisted in the defense of country, home, property, and vested rights. Be it remembered too that these were not skeleton organizations. These eyes have seen Georgia regiments moving to the front twelve hundred strong. This was before they had been torn by shot and shell, and wasted by privations, sickness, and death. So far as my information extends, this commonwealth gave to each organization its becoming complement before turning it over to Confederate service; and, in many instances, the ranks were full to overflowing. I wish that accurate statistics were accessible, but in their absence I venture the assertion that Georgia sent not less than one hundred and twenty thousand of her sons to do battle under the flag of the Southern Confederation.

By the heavy guns at Pensacola, Mobile, and New Orleans,—behind the parapets of Pulaski, McAllister, and Sumter,—among the volcanic throes of Battery Wagner,—at Ocean Pond and Honey Hill,—upon the murderous slopes of Malvern Hill,—beneath the lethal shadows of the Seven Pines,—in the trenches around Petersburg—amid the smoke and carnage of

Manassas, Fredericksburg, Spottsylvania, Chancellorsville, Sharpsburg, Gettysburg, Brandy Station, Cold-Harbor, the Wilderness, Corinth, Shiloh, Vicksburg, Perryville, Murfreesboro, Missionary Ridge, Chickamauga, Franklin, Nashville, Atlanta, Jonesboro, Bentonville, and until the last thunders of war were hushed at Appomattox and Greensboro when, in the language of the present gallant Chief Magistrate of this commonwealth, our regiments, brigades, divisions, and army corps were "worn to a frazzle." these brave Georgians were found shoulder to shoulder with heroic companions in arms, maintaining the honor of their State and supporting the flag of their beleaguered country. You can mention no decisive battle delivered, no memorable shock of arms during the protracted and herculean effort to achieve the independence of the South, where Georgia troops were not present. Their life blood incarnadined, their valor glorified, and their bones sanctified the soil above which the Red Cross, which they followed so closely, waved long and fearlessly in the face of desperate odds. All honor to the courageous men who fell in the forefront of battle. All honor to the cause which enlisted such sympathy and evoked such proofs of marvelous devotion. Precious for all time should be the patriotic, heroic, and virtuous legacy bequeathed by the men and the aspirations of that generation. Within the whole range of defensive wars you will search in vain for surer pledges and higher illustrations of love of country, of self-denial, of patient endurance, of unwavering confidence, and of exalted action. And, as we behold among the survivors of this gigantic conflict not a few who are maimed by wounds, enfeebled by age, and oppressed by poverty, our tenderest sympathy goes out toward them, and there arises a general and an earnest

desire that speedy and suitable provision should be made for every needy and crippled veteran of the grand army which Georgia sent forth to do battle for the right under the stars and bars of the Confederacy. He should at least be shielded from absolute want. By public benefaction he should be enabled to spend the residue of his days unmenaced by the calamities of hunger and cold. No more sacred duty devolves upon this commonwealth than the reasonable relief and sustentation of those who lost health and limb in defense of the general safety. With loyal hearts we elevate statues in marble and in bronze of our Confederate chieftians, and garland the graves of those who gave their lives to the Southern cause, and shall we not extend a helping hand to the living—survivors of that shock of arms—who having shared like peril, endured similar privations, fought under the same banner, and contended for the maintenance of the same principles, emerged from the smoke and carnage of that memorable strife, bringing their shields with them, but so maimed in body, and enfeebled by wounds, disease, and exposures, that they are no longer capable of customary labor, or competent to engage on equal terms with their fellow men in the tiresome and life-long struggle for food, for clothing, and for shelter? To the Mother State which summoned them to the field, and to Georgians whose homes their valor essayed to protect against invasion and destruction—to her and to them only—can these disabled veterans look for that substantial aid which in this, the season of poverty, incapacity, and declining years, is essential to their well-being and comfort. Their claim to suitable recognition in this behalf rests not upon charity, but is based upon the general gratitude and inherent right. Horatius halting on one knee was not more surely entitled to

the gratitude and the help of the Roman Senate and people than is the maimed Confederate veteran worthy of sympathy, honor, and relief not only from the General Assembly of Georgia but also from the entire community. The Red Cross which he followed so long and so well belongs now only to the thesaurus of the Recording Angel. The Confederary, once so puissant, is now simply a pure, a heroic, a glorious memory; and soon there will be numbered among the living none who bore arms in defense of the South. The time is short. Let the obligation—too long unfulfilled—be promptly and generously met. The scars which he received in protecting home and country and vested rights have won for him a claim to universal respect, a peculiar consideration which none should gainsay or lightly esteem, and a title to nobility beyond the blazon of the Herald's College.

In this epoch of commercial methods—of general and increasing poverty in the agricultural regions of the South—of absorption by foreign capital of favored localities, and of the creation in our midst of gigantic corporations intent upon self-aggrandizement,—in this era of manifest modification, if not actual obliteration of those sentiments and modes of thought and action which rendered us a peculiar people,—I call you to witness that there is a growing tendency to belittle the influences, the ways, the services, the lessons, and the characteristics of former years. I call you to witness that the moral and political standard of the present is not equal to that set up and zealously guarded by our fathers. I call you to witness that in the stern battle with poverty,—in the effort to retrieve lost fortunes,

and in the attempt to amass large moneys by speculation,—in the commercial turn which the general thought and conduct have recently taken,—and in the struggle by shifts and questionable devices to outstrip the profits of legitimate ventures, there has occurred a lowering of the tone which marked our former manly, conservative, patriarchal civilization. I call you to witness that many have attempted and are now endeavoring by apologizing for the alleged short comings of the past to stultify the record of the olden time, and by fawning upon the stranger to cast a reproach upon the friend. I call you to witness that by false impressions and improper laudations of the new order of affairs, men in our midst have sought to minimize the capabilities of the past, and unduly to magnify the development of the present. I call you to witness that by adulation and fulsome entertainment of itinerant promoters and blatant schemers, seeking to inaugurate enterprises which are designed to benefit those only who are personally interested in them, the public has been sadly duped to its shame and loss. I call you to witness that the truest test of civilization lies not in the census, in the growth of cities, in railway combinations and the formation of Gargantuan trusts, in the expansion of manufactures, in the manipulation of land schemes and corporate securities, or in the aggregation of wealth, but in the mental, moral, political, and economic education and elevation of the population. I call you to witness that the present inclination to make one part of society inordinately affluent at the expense of the wretchedness and the unhappiness of the other, is in derogation of natural rights, impairing the equilibrium and disturbing the repose of the elements essential to the entity and the happiness of a great, honest, virtuous, and democratic nation. I call

you to witness that a reign of plutocrats—a subjection of men, measures, and places to the will of millionaires and plethoric syndicates—is antagonistic to the liberty of the Republic and subversive of personal freedom. I call you to witness that this adoration of wealth—this bending the knee to the Golden Calf—this worship of mortals gifted with the Midas touch, savors of a sordid and debasing fetichism at variance with the spirit of true religion and emasculatory of all tokens of robust manhood. I call you to witness that “Mammon is the largest slave-holder in the world,” and that the integrity of station and principle is seriously imperiled when subjected to the pressure of gold. I call you to witness that cardinal doctrines and exalted sentiments, when assailed, should, like troops of the line, stand fast; and at all times and under all circumstances be held above and beyond all price. I call you to witness that the alleged prosperity of this commonwealth, except in limited localities, is largely a matter of imagination. I call you to witness that, eliminating from the computation the value of slaves as ascertained by the returns of 1860, the State of Georgia is now poorer by more than twelve millions of dollars than she was twenty nine years ago. I call you to witness that behind this fanfare of trumpets proclaiming the attractions and the growth of the New South may too often be detected the deglutition of the harpy and the chuckle of the hireling. I call you to witness that the important problem involving the remunerative cultivation of the soil, and the employment of our agricultural population upon a basis of suitable industry, economy, compensation, and independence, is largely unsolved. The occupation of the planter lying at the foundation of all engagements and constituting the normal, the indispensable, the legitimate, and the

honorable avocation of the masses. I call you to witness that every reasonable encouragement should be extended in facilitating his labors and in multiplying the fruits of his toil. I call you to witness that general prosperity cannot be expected while such extensive areas of our territory remain uncultivated, while so many of our farmers annually crave advances. I call you to witness that the potentialities of our former civilization, so far from being improved, have been sadly retarded by the issues of war. I call you to witness that the promises of the *ante-bellum* days, had they not been thus rudely thwarted, would have yielded results far transcending those which we now behold. I call you to witness that the grand effort now is and should be to preserve inviolate the sentiments and to transmit unimpaired the characteristics of the Old South. I call you to witness that in the restoration of the good order, the decorum, the honesty, the veracity, the public confidence, the conservatism, the security to person and property, the high-toned conduct, and the manliness of the past lies best hope for the honor and lasting prosperity of the coming years. I call you to witness that the heroic example of other days constitutes, in large measure, the source of the courage of the succeeding generation; and that "when beckoned onward by the shades of the brave that were," we may the more confidently venture upon enterprises of pith and moment and, without fear, work out our present and future salvation.

Palsied be the Southern tongue which would speak disparagingly of a Confederate past, and withered be the Southern arm that refuses to lift itself in praise of the virtue and the valor which characterized the actors, from the highest to the lowest, in a war not of "rebellion," but for the conservation of home, the mainte-

nance of constitutional government and the supremacy of law, and the vindication of the natural rights of man.

Did time permit, gladly, my Comrades, would I call to your remembrance the leading military events which transpired, and the battles which were fought on Georgia soil during the war between the States; but anything more than a bare mention of them would transcend the limits of this hour and exceed the demands which I have a right to make upon your generous patience. To the military lessons inculcated during the bombardments of Forts Pulaski and McAllister I have, on a former occasion, had the honor of directing your attention. The capture near Rome of Colonel Streight and his entire command by General Forrest—the memorable battle of Chickamauga—the death-grapple between Generals Johnston and Sherman from Dalton to Atlanta—the battles around and the demolition of that city—the devastating march of the Federal columns from Atlanta to the coast—the capture of Fort McAllister—the siege and evacuation of Savannah—the levy *en masse* of the arms-bearing population of this commonwealth—the last meeting of the Confederate cabinet at Washington, in Wilkes county—the disintegration of the Confederate government and the capture of President Davis on Georgia soil—these, and many other important occurrences, are fresh in your recollection. Fitting relations of them may well be reserved for other occasions.

If we turn to the proceedings of the General Assemblies of Georgia convened during the period cover-

ed by the war, we will find them aglow with patriotic acts and generous resolutions providing for the arming and clothing of soldiers in the field,—for the relief and the support of their indigent families,—for the organization and sustentation of hospitals, way-side homes, and charitable associations of various sorts demanded by the exigencies of the times and the claims of suffering humanity—for the manufacture and distribution of wool and cotton cards, by which, upon the plantations, the fabrication of cloth might be facilitated,—for the exemption from taxation of soldiers at the front whose property did not exceed in value a thousand dollars, so long as they remained in the active military service either of Georgia or of the Confederate States—encouraging the cultivation of grain to the exclusion of cotton,—expressing confidence in the President of the Confederate States and pledging allegiance to the government of which he was the chief-magistrate—thanking officers and men for their gallantry upon many a bloody field—complimenting troops upon the alacrity with which they reinlisted upon the expiration of their terms of service,—appropriating large sums for the purchase of quarter-master, commissary, and ordnance stores,—condemning monopolies, punishing extortioners, and in various ways fostering useful schemes which advanced the revolution and ministered to the wants of those who were engaged in a gigantic and lethal struggle for its maintenance.

Millions upon millions were freely voted, raised by taxation, and expended for the support of Georgians in arms and for the relief of the needy families of soldiers at the front, but not one cent was ever offered by public resolution for hiring or substitute. Be this fact spoken and remembered in perpetual praise of this people and of the cause which enlisted their profound-

est-sympathies. Situated in the heart of the Confederacy—the Egypt of this struggling nation—Georgia knew no distractions within her borders, but freely gave her sons, her substance, and her every countenance to sustain the fortunes of the Southern Confederation. State government, legislature, municipalities, county organizations, the bench, the pulpit, and citizens, with one accord united in devising and supporting measures designed to promote the success of the grand endeavor.

And what, my friends, shall we say of the slave population of this commonwealth which was then confidently reckoned upon by strangers and enemies as an element of weakness? While strong men were in the tented field, our servants remained quietly at home. As was their wont, they tilled the soil, ministered kindly to the needs of unprotected women and children, and performed all customary services with the same cheerfulness and alacrity as when surrounded by the usual controlling agencies. Gentle, tractable, and docile, they conducted all domestic operations with commendable industry and regularity. Security of person and property was not invaded. The long established tokens of respect and obedience were every where observed, and our domestics, in the emergency, proved themselves in very deed the guardians of home and family. Praiseworthy was their conduct: and the Southern heart warms towards them still for their fidelity, friendship, and uninterrupted labors during this epoch of anxiety, of temptation, and of disquietude. The slaves of Georgia and of the other Confederate commonwealths cannot be too highly commended for their fidelity, quiet behavior, and valuable services

during this eventful period. In localities not over-run or occupied by Federal forces they remained loyal to their owners. Few indeed were the instances of insubordination, and the history of the times furnishes no authentic cases of violence or insurrection. Because agricultural operations were so largely committed to and performed by the slave population, was the Confederacy enabled to utilize so thoroughly the white military strength of the States which composed it. Nothing attests more surely the attachment then entertained by the servant for his master and family—nothing proclaims more emphatically the satisfactory status of the relation—nothing certifies more truly the pleasant intercourse between the races, than the domestic peace which reigned within this State and the Confederacy during this season of peril and alarm. The record is unique: and yet to one accustomed from childhood to understand and appreciate the influences of that relation as developed and confirmed for generations, the result appears but a logical sequence of mutual dependence, trust, and genuine friendship.

The services of the Southern slaves were not however, limited to the performance of domestic duties and the conduct of operations appurtenant to the plantations. Many accompanied their owners to the front; shared with them the privations of camp life, endured the fatigues of the march, were not infrequently exposed to the dangers of battle, served as cooks and hostlers, drove wagons, nursed the sick and wounded, and, in fine, discharged almost all duties other than those incident to bearing arms.

Another important station filled by the Southern slave during the war was that of a laborer engaged upon the construction of river, harbor, and city defenses, in the erection of government buildings, and in

the elevation of military works at strategic points. Such service was of the highest importance. During the early months of the war it was, at various points along the sea-coast of Georgia, freely contributed by the masters of plantations. As the struggle progressed, it was made available under regulations prescribed and for compensation provided under the auspices of the Confederate government.

Whether fortunately or unfortunately for the future of the Southern States, neither the soldiers in the field nor the citizens at home, as a general rule, favored the enlistment of the negro in the armies of the Confederacy; and when the Confederate Congress,—moved by the exigency and largely influenced by the opinions of President Davis, General Lee, and others high in public confidence,—enacted a law sanctioning the employment of negro slaves in the military service of the Confederate States, matters were so evidently *in extremis*, and the fall of the Confederate Government was manifestly so close at hand, that no opportunity was afforded for testing an experiment which, to say the least, savored of desperation and betokened the early and certain abolition of slavery within the borders of the Confederacy.

Of the conduct of the women of Georgia during the Confederate revolution we may not speak except in terms of the highest admiration and with emotions of the profoundest gratitude. From its inception to its close their behavior was beyond all praise. Whether in lowly cottage or stately mansion there came from them no thought, no look, no message, no act, which was not redolent of love of country, full of incitement

to heroic action, commendatory of all that was good and noble and virtuous, and sanctified by genuine self-denial and the exhibition of the tenderest Christian charity. Through the long and dark hours of that protracted struggle for independence how sublime their influence, their patience, their sufferings, their aspirations, and their example! The presence of their sympathy and of their aid, the potency of their prayers and their sacrifices, the language of their patriotism and of their devotion, and the eloquence of their tears and of their smiles were priceless in the inspiration they brought and more effective than an army with banners.

And when the war was over, in tender appreciation of the brave deeds wrought in the name of truth and freedom, in proud memory of the slain, they dignified this land with soldiers' monuments, gathered the sacred dust, guarded unmarked graves, and canonized those who suffered martyrdom during this eventful epoch. Than the record of the patriotism, the passion, and the generous deeds of the women of the South there is none brighter, purer, or loftier in the annals of the civilized world.

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In the sisterhood of States composing the Southern Confederacy it may be fairly claimed that none occupied a braver or more influential station than this commonwealth. Of Georgia's part in the struggle we may be justly proud. Although the grand effort culminated in disappointment and disaster, born of and surviving the conflict are examples of heroic virtue, of patriotism, of self-sacrifice, of exalted emprise, and of conspicuous valor, which will endure for the

emulation of the ages, and constitute a precious legacy in the esteem of all who are capable of recognizing and reverencing the true glory of race and nation. Most grateful should we be that this land was capable of furnishing such exhibitions of virtue and of valor—that this State could command the services of such sons and daughters in the hour of her supreme peril. While in the nature of things like crisis may never arise, in the memories of this brave and consecrated past find we cause for unstinted exultation.. Such recollections justly encourage expectation of present and future loyalty and manliness. From gallant loins should spring a race competent to cope with every difficulty—willing to respond to every emergency. At great cost was the manhood of Georgia thus demonstrated, and preserved amid circumstances the most arduous. Let it not be impaired by the demoralizing influences of a utilitarian present. While responsive to existing obligations,—while earnestly desiring the purity, the elevation, and the prosperity of the whole country,—and while rejoicing in the hope that in this centennial year all sectional issues will be consigned to the grave of the Sadducee whence there is no resurrection, and that from henceforth an era of amity, of mutual forbearance, of equal rights, of expanding virtue, of constitutional freedom, and of supreme devotion to the highest conceptions of truth, of justice, and of honor will dominate and beatify this puissant Republic throughout its wide borders,—we have no apologies to offer or excuses to render for the conduct of this commonwealth during the war between the States. She did her whole duty and performed it nobly. For the aspirations, the heroes, the sentiments and the achievements of a past which lends so much lustre to the pages of history and gives to humanity such assurance

of its greatness there should be only abounding gratitude and praise without ceasing.

Surely the memorable deeds which were then wrought, the lessons inculcated, the characters unfolded, the principles advanced, the traditions delivered, and the monuments bequeathed, should stimulate us and those who will come after us to lives of patriotism, of honesty, of courage, and of virtue.

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